

CLAIMS

1. A tablet storage and take-out apparatus in which a vial filled with tablets is waiting at a waiting space for being taken out, comprising:

5 plural pairs of holding members for holding a barrel of the vial, the plural pairs of holding members being provided at the waiting space so as to be opposed to each other; and

stock sensors for detecting whether the vial is held by the plural pairs of holding members or not, the stock sensor being provided so as to correspond
10 to the plural pairs of holding members.

2. The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the plural pairs of holding members are provided with concave portions opposed to each other:

15 the plural pairs of holding members are supported so as to pivot around two shafts that are away from each other by a distance larger than the diameter of the vial so that the concave portions can come close to and move away from each other;

the plural pairs of holding members are urged so that the concave
20 portions can come close to each other; and

the concave portions can pinch and hold the barrel of the vial so that the center of the vial is positioned between the concave portions.

3. The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 1 or 2, wherein
25 the stock sensors are sensors for detecting that the plural pairs of holding

members are situated at a position close to or away from each other.

4. The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the plural pairs of holding members are juxtaposed in a line in a depth direction from the take-out side of the waiting space.

5. The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the plural pairs of holding members positioned at the take-out side have a high priority;

10 if none of the plural pairs of holding members have hold the vial, the pair of holding members having higher priority holds the vial newly filled with tablets; and

if any one of the plural pairs of holding members have hold the vial, the pair of holding members having a priority next lower than the pair of holding members having a priority lowest among the pairs of holding members holding the vial holds the subsequent vial.

6. The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the waiting space has a plural space;

20 the plural pairs of holding members in the same space hold the plural vials filled with tables for same patient; and

the plural pairs of holding members in the different space hold the vial filled with tables for different patient,